1	2	1	2
43.	Poland	55.	Sri Lanka
44.	Portugal	56.	Sudan
45.	Qatar	57.	Sweden
46.	Romania	58.	Switzerland
47.	Russia	59.	Tajikistan
48.	Saudi Arabia	60.	Thailand
49.	Senegal	61.	Trinidad & Tobago
50.	Seychelles	62.	UAE
51.	Singapore	63.	UK
52.	Slovakia	64.	USA
53.	South Africa	65.	Venezuela
54.	Spain		

Devolution Index for Panchayats

3881. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is proposing a scheme for Panchayats to get additional funds competing with each other; and

(b) what is the reported 'devolution index' constituted by the Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS) is intended to incentivise State Governments to empower Panchayats and incentivise Panchayats to be transparent and accountable in their transactions. The PEAIS was operationalized during 2006-07 on the basis of a working Devolution Index prepared by National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER). The more nuanced Devolution Index is being prepared by the NCAER which is likely to be completed by the end of 2007.

(b) The Fifth Round Table at Srinagar in October, 2004 made an initial attempt at drawing up a Devolution Index that would be fair, objective and removed from all political bias or subjective personal prejudice. The Srinagar exercise was then passed on for refinement to the National Council of Applied Economic Research. The refined and more nuanced Devolution Index is expected to include all indicators covering the major areas relating to the empowerment of Panchayati Raj, Institutions.

HP districts under BRGF

3882. SHRI BASHISTHA NARAIN SINGH: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in the State of Himachal Pradesh included under Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF);

(b) the salient features of the scheme;

(c) the details of the works which would be taken up in various districts under this scheme and regulatory mechanism thereof;

(d) the role of Panchayats in this regard;

(e) the manner in which Government would provide training to representatives of Panchayats for proper implementation of the scheme; and

(f) the amount sanctioned under this scheme to Gram Panchayat Jangla in Shimla district?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Two districts of Himachal Pradesh, namely, Chamba and Sirmour, are included under the Backward Regions Grant Fund programme (BRGF). These districts were also covered under the Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana, which has been subsumed into BRGF. The salient features of the programme may be seen at in the enclosed Statement-I (*See* below).

(c) to (e) The objective of the programme is to supplement and converge the existing developmental inflows into identified districts. Therefore, the developmental grant under this programme is substantially untied and can be used by Panchayats and Urban local bodies for any purpose within the items of works that are devolved to them respectively as listed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules of the Constitution. Under the guidelines, the Panchayats and Municipalities, through District Planning Committees,